

SECOND SERIES.

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1900

Vol.
15.

No.
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THE
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY.



PUBLISHED BY
THE
SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO.
LIMITED.
18 EAST 23rd ST. NEW YORK.

April

1902.

Entered at N. Y. Post Office as Second Class Matter.

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American Journal of Philately.

A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of Stamp Collectors.

Official organ of the National Philatelic Society of New York and of the Staten Island Philatelic Society of Staten Island.

Published by The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Limited, 18 E. 23d St., New York.
JOHN N. LUUFF, Editor.

Subscription for the U. S. and Canada, 50c.] APRIL 1, 1902. [Single Copies, 5cts
" " Foreign Countries, 75c.]

Collecting Perforations. A Suggestion.

such albums. I do not propose to renew, at this time, the discussion of the merits of these various methods of collecting. I may, however, mention that in this country the more advanced collectors seem to incline toward limited specialism, and prefer a good showing of one or more countries to an excessive and wearisome accumulation.

Of late we have heard much about "limited specialism", "bloating" and "general collecting", the last term being usually accepted as defining that form of collecting which is confined to printed albums, and comprises few, if any, varieties which are not provided for in

When a collector determines to specialize, one of the first questions which he has to decide is how far he will go in the matter of collecting perforations. In many countries we find bewildering variety and puzzling combinations of perforations, much of which is not intentional but merely due to irregularities in the perforating machinery. The philatelist who concludes to collect such a country on the lines of limited specialism will, no doubt, wish to restrict the number of perforation varieties in his collection. In doing this, however, he will desire not to omit anything which is essential to show changes in the stamps or their manufacture. What, then, shall he take and what leave out in the way of perforations? I would suggest that he confine his efforts to obtaining representative specimens of the work of each perforating machine. Perhaps this is not a very new idea to some of us, but I am quite certain, from recent conversations with a number of collectors, that it is just the idea which others are seeking. To those who are contemplating limited specialism, I beg to commend it. I have found it very satisfactory in my own case and think it may be equally pleasing to others.

I remember what a nightmare were the perforations of St. Vincent. Many of us despaired of ever arriving at an understanding of their complications, much more of acquiring all the varieties. Then, Messrs. Bacon and Napier came to our rescue with their handbook on St. Vincent, and what had previously seemed so puzzling became intelligible and quite possible of attainment. We found that we might abandon the multitude of varieties in the early issues and confine our attention to the work of three machines. The new book on Grenada, by these writers, has shed further light on the vagaries of the Perkins-Bacon perforating machines, which are responsible for most of the difficulties in collecting British Colonial perforations. After

we have become familiar with the work of these machines, we will be able to reduce the early stamps of most of the British Colonies to a few groups, at least, as far as perforations are concerned. The later perforations, used by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. and other printers, are comparatively free from complications and few in number.

Countries which are not as popular as the British Colonies and have not been as exhaustively studied, will naturally present some difficulties, but I think that in most of them the perforations can be simplified by study. It is not often that manufacturers of postage stamps are willing to assist philatelists in their quests for information. Therefore we may congratulate ourselves that Messrs. Bacon and Napier have been able to learn so many interesting and useful things about the work of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. and that the knowledge has fallen into the hands of writers and philatelists of so much ability and experience. But even when we have not such opportunities it is possible to group and simplify perforations, to a large extent, through the study of sheets, blocks and copies with dated cancellations. I have recently done some work on these lines in the stamps of Japan with very satisfactory results, so far as I have worked out the issues. It is possible that I may, at a later date, publish the results of my study in the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY*, if I think they are likely to prove of interest to its readers.

Centering. Writing of perforations leads to a kindred subject—one, in fact, which is the outcome of perforating, i. e., centering. There was a time when philatelists paid very little attention to this detail; perhaps it was a happy time. Who shall say whether it is better to have a lot of off-center specimens and be blissfully ignorant of and indifferent to their defects, or to have only irreproachable copies, acquired with much care, and lacking many companions because they cannot be found in satisfactory condition? The reader is welcome to select whichever horn of the dilemma seems to him preferable. But this is digressing, as I wish to direct my remarks towards certain things which have lately been said on the subject of centering.

On February 17th there was held in this city, under the auspices of the Philatelic Society, a competitive exhibition of collections of one thousand cancelled stamps, condition and not rarity to count. In their report the judges said: "No deductions were made for unevenly centered specimens, provided the perforations did not cut into the design." This was apparently a harmless remark and a reasonable position to assume in judging exhibits of this character, but "behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" In the *Metropolitan Philatelist* for March 8th this remark is taken as the text for an editorial, advocating the collecting of stamps perforated in "any old way". It attributed to the Philatelic Society the sentiment that "an unevenly centered stamp is as good as any other and will receive equal credit in all competitions." Since that article was printed several members of the Society have spoken about it to me and deprecated any responsibility for or sympathy with such opinions. I think I express the feelings of many of the leading collectors of this city when I say that we do not agree with the editor of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*. We realize that a large percentage of stamps are not well centered and that we cannot all have collections which contain nothing but perfect specimens, but, none the less, we desire to obtain for ourselves as many fine copies as may be. A few of us are over-careful in collecting,

the majority are what may be termed reasonable, inasmuch as we will accept stamps that have the design intact and not exaggerated margins on one or more sides, but none of us care to have stamps which might rightly be considered as damaged. Most of all do we object to being held up to the ridicule of others, especially our European confreres, as being so lacking in the sense of what is desirable in a collection or worthy of advanced philatelists. I refer especially to European journals because they are usually conducted by thorough philatelists, whose opinions are founded on experience, carefully considered and worthy of respect.

The demand for perfect centering and fine condition cannot be put down either by editorial writers or resolutions of societies. It is with us and it has come to stay. The situation must be met with other remedies. Dealers will have to price their stamps according to condition and collectors must learn that those who demand perfection must pay for it, while those who are content with something less will have less to pay, and the collector who requires fifty per cent. discount may get things worth fifty per cent. or he may not. The last point will be settled when the buyer attempts to realize on his investments. To the poor all things are poor. Perfection is a high priced commodity, but it is like "gilt edge" stock when you want to turn it into cash.

Apropos of the foregoing we quote from the *London Philatelist*:

The craze after perfect stamps, like anything else, may be occasionally overdone, and with regard to even centering, there are many issues in many countries where even centering in perforation or its equivalent in margins of imperforate stamps is really unattainable. At the same time, where stamps are, as a rule, or even as an exception, well centered, it seems palpable that such a specimen is preferable to those that have the design impinged upon by the needle. The modern desire to have nothing but the finest specimen has perhaps a deterrent influence (as regards the old issues only), as the most perfect stamps gradually drift to the wealthy collector, and only the inferior copies remain on the market. The inevitable trend of philatelic opinion throughout Europe is for finer and finer copies, and despite the jeremiads of those who prefer to take less perfect stamps at correspondingly lower prices, the best Philatelists will continue to take the best stamps, and will make the best investment for their outlay.



Our English Letter.

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

LONDON, 26 April, 1902.

You seem to have given the philatelic press food for discussion in your comments on the publication of details of forgeries. Personally, I was years ago strongly in favor of the publication of all details of forgeries, down to the smallest differences. Experience has taught me that it is much wiser for specialists to give a few leading discrepancies as a protection to collectors. In the majority of cases one leading difference is generally enough. A hint as to wrong paper, absence of watermark, a single variation in the design, etc., is I find, quite enough to put a collector on his guard. To do more is, in my opinion, to help the forger.

The case of expensive stamps is in a somewhat different category, for the simple reason that none but competent collectors, or fools, would think of paying a large sum for a single stamp without submitting it first to a specialist. The competent collector can protect himself, the fool will jump at the veriest forgery, provided he thinks he is having a bargain. The competent collector will be careful to buy his rarities from firms with a reputation to lose. The fool will buy from the men who have never had a reputation to lose, under the delusion that he will be getting bargains from men who don't know a good stamp when they see it. He will never understand that it is only the specialist who can afford to buy from the shady, because he alone can safely separate the good from the bad, and buy accordingly.

There was a time when philatelic editors and writers vied with each other in grinding out page after page, every month, about forgeries. I remember the time when the page on forgeries was considered a *sine qua non* in a stamp paper. Now, I believe it is generally recognised that the less said about forgeries the better. The ideal state of things is to have an active society of dealers and collectors to keep a watchful eye on forgery production, and to silently run down the forger. The interminable talk about forgeries generated the suspicion in the minds of beginners that the forgery was the bane of stamp collecting, and that it was such a real danger that the chances were that the uninitiated was as likely to buy a forgery as a genuine stamp in more than fifty per cent. of his purchases. Possibly that was true years ago, but it is certainly not so now. In its day the continental jaw, jaw, about forgeries has worked untold harm to philately. I know an immensely wealthy man who went in for stamp collecting, but the terrible warnings that he read from month to month about clever forgeries after a time disgusted and then frightened him, and he gave up stamps. But for the forgery page he would to-day have been a prominent member of the Philatelic Society of London.

To-day the collector is protected by the high and undoubted standing of the leading dealers. Most of them pay specialists to weed out all doubt-

ful stamps from those countries they do not themselves thoroughly understand. What is the result? There is not a dealer of the first rank who can to-day afford to sell even a doubtful stamp. If by some unfortunate accident a forgery escapes into a customer's hands, the dealer hears of it from all round the circle to such an extent in chaff and inuendo that life is rendered positively not worth living.

But you cannot protect the flat from the forger, for he will not be protected. Barnum once assured me, as the result of his great and varied experience that he believed the public dearly loved to be gulled, "and," he added, with a twinkle, "I dearly love to gull them." So it is with the stamp collecting flat. He dearly loves to be gulled, and there are governments and stamp dealers that dearly love to gull him. Then, for Heaven's sake, let him alone; he is far happier with his rubbish than he can ever be with your worries about forgeries.

We are getting so exquisitely moral that, at the invitation of a society of youthful enthusiasts we are seriously considering the morality of buying a rarity from an innocent at an unmentionable figure and then selling it for its full value without blushing. It has inspired me with a hope that I shall yet live to see a philatelic millenium. And I fondly look forward to some such transaction as the following over the telephone:

Phillips. "Are you there?"

Nankivell. "I ar."

Phillips. "I have just bought a lovely mint copy of the 'Transvral' error for £5. It is worth £150, but fifteen per cent. pays me, that will be £5.8.0 for the stamp. Are you there?"

Nankivell. "I ar. Send it along."

We may talk of the moralities, and of sweetness and light, but the old Adam will never die. His coffin may be prepared by enthusiasts, but you can't bury the critter while he is so much alive as he is all round us.

Making a price on a stamp that has not yet a catalogue price, and which may be a scarce stamp, is an interesting operation to those who manage to get a peep behind the scenes in stamp circles. We have two or three such sporting items just now. The Gold Coast ad of the current Queen's head series has been largely cornered by speculators, and they are holding on for a big price; meanwhile, reports are diligently circulated as to the more than probable rarity of the stamp, few printed, etc. A few have leaked out and have been sold at 1s each. But the speculators evidently are holding on for a much bigger price. I hope they will burn their fingers, and that collectors won't be such fools as to be caught in the rooking operations that are on foot. The other sporting item is the 6d current Orange River Colony surcharged 4d in red. First supplies were disposed of at 9d, a price made by Gibbons. But now that Gibbons is sold out other holders have rushed the stamp up to the absurd price of 3s 6d.

A reason given for the scarcity of these new issues is that out of the first supplies a large number of collectors take whole panes of 60, and so reduce the number available for the ordinary man. As pane and sheet collectors are rapidly increasing because of the many wealthy people who are now taking up stamp collecting, the ordinary single specimen collector will have to set about devising some means for ensuring himself a share in even current new issues, for one never knows what may not run short.

In this connection one cannot help feeling considerable sympathy with Mr. Oldfields' crusade against bloating, though we are all compelled to admit that pane and sheet collecting is not only an interesting but even an important and very necessary form of collecting. It is, without question, important that panes and sheets should be preserved for future reference, but if all wealthy collectors are going to adopt that form of collecting in their favorite countries then the single stamp man stands a good chance of having many annoying blanks in even the most modern issues.

A telegram from Melbourne announces that, as a result of representations by New Zealand, the Australian Commonwealth has decided to admit, without surcharge, letters bearing a penny stamp from any portion of the Empire. That practically settles the question of Imperial Penny Postage, and many are of opinion that possibly the next Congress of the Postal Union may adopt the penny rate for foreign postage in place of the present $2\frac{1}{2}$ d rate.

Meanwhile, readers of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY will not be far wrong in securing, as they come out, all the varieties of Australian colonies. I urged them to do this when the question on federation first cropped up and already there are not a few stamps that have come and gone which will be hard to get at reasonable prices in a few years. The 6d, 1s, 2s and 5s of Victoria of last year's issue without postage are not common, and there are signs that the 5s may be a 2os or 3os stamp in the next catalogue.

New Zealand stamps are full of sudden change, and need to be closely watched, and promptly secured at new issue rates. The introduction of the new machine, perf. 14, is giving us compound perfs. with old machines that may run scarce. At all events, it will be wise to make sure of these varieties of perforation while they are to be had at low prices.

Considerable knowledge is needed in buying the varieties of Orange River Colony. For instance, a dealer recently sold a collector the variety of the small fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ d in the level stops printing for £10. At a subsequent auction a block of 30 stamps, including this variety, fetched only 14s. The prices that are too frequently laid on thick and thick for varieties that may be scarce must frequently cause much profanity and I question very much whether the temporary advantage gained does not ultimately mean loss of custom.

This and That.

By CRAWFORD CAPEN.

Collectors of imperforate pairs are wise men. There can be no question that there will be an increasing demand for stamps in this condition as the years pass by. There are many stamps which are comparatively common as single varieties, which are seldom or never seen in pairs. This is the fact even with remainders. One sees a great many single copies of Ionian Islands, but the stamps in pairs or blocks are seldom found. The desire for fine things in fine condition increases the admiration of collectors for attached pairs of imperforate stamps in which one can see the similarities and differences, as well as being in possession of the stamp actually imperforate. Those who do not care to make a regular business of collecting stamps in imperforate pairs, find that the interest of an album is enhanced materially by the presence in the collection of some stamps in pairs or blocks.

The collector who uses a blank album has no difficulty in finding space for stamps in this condition, and those who use a printed album have blank pages enough inserted in it to make provision for the addition of such things to the collection.

Blocks of four collecting, even of perforated stamps, is on the increase. The amount of expense attached to the collecting of stamps in this way is the deterring factor with many, but where one feels that he is willing to make a considerable investment, there can be no wiser way than to collect stamps in blocks of four. There are many things which are advantageous in this method of collecting. It is not mere bloating, as so many are inclined to consider it, if one goes at it in a reasonable manner. There is no way in which colors and shades of single stamps can be shown to the advantage with which they are revealed when mounted in blocks of four. Take such a country as St. Vincent. The variations of shade which cannot be seen at all, or with the greatest difficulty, in single stamps, are very marked indeed in blocks of four. Again, it is interesting to note the way in which stamps are spaced in a sheet, whether they are perforated or imperforate. The distances horizontally or vertically frequently vary. A block of four will, in nearly all cases, show what the variations are. There can, of course, be no objection, in a block collection, to making a greater showing by the placing in it of blocks of even larger numbers, and where variations in spacing are shown, this seems to be advisable. There is also nothing more attractive than the little sheets that are found in some countries, such as the early Newfoundland, Gambia and the Virgin Islands. These are worth having and showing even in countries like those mentioned where there are no marked variations between the different stamps, but when one can get such stamps as those of Nevis, Corrientes, blocks of early Philippines, Samoa or other countries where stamps were separately engraved, or printed from lithographic plates in which stamps differed from one another in some particulars, the placing of them in the collection adds to its interest a thousand fold. Blocks of four may also be had with varieties in the block of a most interesting nature. We can have tête-bêche stamps in France or Grenada, the former being in the nature of errors, the latter a regular method of printing; stamps with surcharges, in blocks of four, in which, sometimes, every specimen differs from the others of the block.

One use to hear a great deal about collecting stamps so as to complete

countries. There are not very many advanced collectors who ever hope to get countries absolutely complete. The number of those which can be complete is exceedingly small if one cares to have all the varieties that have been issued. The collecting of stamps has reached such a point that one may reasonably depart, at the present time, from the old idea of completeness and collect them just as objects of art are collected. Paintings, engravings, fine porcelains are collected, not with the idea of getting all the varieties that exist, but of making a representative collection which shall show the finest and the best of the work done in various countries. One cannot now, in stamp collecting have everything, but one may, according to the means he possesses, have a representative and thus a valuable collection.

Rare and valuable are not always synonymous terms. There are a great many stamps of which very few have been printed or of which not many have been preserved, which therefore should command high prices on account of their rarity that are relatively cheap when one makes a comparison with the popular stamps for which there is a very great demand and which rise in value for this reason rather than for any other. One should not forget that every country's stamps have their turn in popularity. The great popularity in which one class of stamps is held at one time, may pass to such an extent that a relatively low price will be commanded by them. There can be no better illustration than that offered by the way in which United States stamps have been treated within the past few years. There was a time, five years ago or more, when the demand for all the issues of our country was exceeding strong. Collectors did not stop to think what they were getting, so far as quality or condition was concerned, provided that it was a United States stamp. The consequence was that enormous quantities of inferior stamps were secured at high prices by speculative collectors. These have since been offered for sale, as anyone who noticed the course of the buying must have known that they would be. These vast numbers of inferior stamps have had an effect in lowering the prices of all United States issues.

The way, however, in which perforating the early issues of our country's stamps was done, and the carelessness with which imperforate issues were cut apart, makes fine specimens, both used and unused, scarce and in many issues even rare. They may not now command the highest prices, but we do not believe that there is any investment which now or ever has been better, than a collection of United States stamps, unused if one has the capital to put into them, or used if one does not have so much to spend. There are certainly a very large number of collectors in the United States, no matter what one may think as to their relation to the number of collectors in the world, and these American collectors have their largest permanent interests in stamps of our own country, and therefore the value of them will never have any serious nor permanent decline.

This is a day of "fakes." There never has been a time when the collector needed to be more on his guard than just at the present time against all manner of deceptions. We frequently have old collections of stamps offered us for sale with the guarantee that they must be genuine since they were collected thirty years ago or more. We almost always find in them, however, large numbers of the cheap counterfeits with which the collecting world was flooded in the early days. The nature of these, however, is such that one need not be an expert to know that they are counterfeits. The very smallest amount of discrimination teaches one the facts in relation to them. Such counterfeiting as this, however, has now passed away. No one wastes

his time in making things that will deceive no one who has ordinary eyes. Frauds have turned their attention to the making of false surcharges, some of which are so accurate that they cannot be told, even by the process of measuring. The closest scrutiny is necessary, combined with good judgment and the possession of large amounts of material, to determine what is good and what is not merely in relation to surcharges. Years ago one might be an expert if one used one's eyes, but at the present time, unless one is possessed of a fine reprint collection, and gathers from every source, proofs, essays, "specimens" and the more elaborately conceived varieties of "fakes" one is not qualified as to what is good and what is bad. There has been some small criticism of the position taken by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. in relation to the examination of stamps. We wish to say to those who take this exception, that all that we are doing, and the money that is being spent in this concern is for the benefit of the collectors of the country. Is it not worth a great deal to you collectors to have some place where you can send stamps and feel reasonably sure that you know the facts in relation to them when they have been passed upon? We have to charge a fee for making examinations, because the work cannot be given to anyone except those whose time the Company must pay the largest price for. Our old charges resulted in a loss to us. Our present charges give us more time for the making of examinations that are worth something to the owners of the stamps because collectors will not send us quantities of ordinary varieties to examine. The dealers of the country generally cannot have in their possession the necessary material for making accurate examinations. We offer to them the privilege of sending stamps to us, and by paying our fees receive the information which they require for their customers. Personally, I cannot see that objectors have a leg left to stand upon in the exception which has been taken to the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., for doing the best that it knows how for American collectors.

A helter-skelter article like this will scarcely be complete unless some mention is made of the stamps of Greece. The writer gets laughed at for his devotion to them but this does not worry him, since there have never been any more interesting stamps printed. The constant finding out of new things in relation to them is the chief reason for liking them. We have just been having album leaves prepared to put into the new Nineteenth Century Album which will come out during this year and even while they were being prepared, a new and heretofore unknown variety was discovered. The difficulties in understanding the stamps of Greece are very similar to those which once existed in relation to United States prints and papers. Every old collector will remember the confusion in his mind which followed the putting of these United States varieties into our catalogue. This has passed away, and now every collector understands the main differences between the different issues. Even the boys will tell which is the American and which Continental or National print. It will be only a short time after our new album leaves are printed before collectors will learn to distinguish the variations in Greek stamps. The most confusing thing, at the present time, to the average collector is that he cannot mount his stamps on the pages of the International Album. There are spaces for varieties there but some equally prominent and noticeable varieties have no spaces allotted to them. Just as soon as we give one space for each stamp, collectors will be looking for the numbers of the catalogue with which to fill and the understanding of the variations which exist will become general. Any country would be a difficult country if the makers of the catalogue did not understand it and made

one which misrepresented it. No one has until recently been in a position to make a catalogue of the stamps of the country which was correct, but since this has been prepared there is no reason why collectors should not soon come to the understanding of the way in which to arrange its stamps.

The Provisional Postage Due Stamps of Bulgaria.

From *Le Timbrophile Belge*.

Apropos of postage stamps surcharged "T" having served as Postage Due stamps, the *Essor Philatélique* publishes the following information :

Sophia, February 6, 1902.

Sir :—In reply to your letter of the 3rd inst., I must inform you that Unpaid Letter stamps with the surcharge "T" have never been issued in Bulgaria.

Accept, etc.,

(Signed) The Sub-Chief of the Central Postal Bureau.

H. RADEF.

We have, on our part, secured some information and give herewith the translation of the official circular, addressed by the postal administration at Sophia to the heads of the offices of Posts and Telegraphs :

No. 233/36283.

Sophia, 18th December, 1901.

When you have no stamps for the collection of unpaid postage on correspondence, borrow from the station nearest to you. If you cannot obtain the stamps, employ ordinary postage stamps. As for letters which are not accepted, the stamps which you will have used will be reimbursed to you.

(Signed) For the Director in Chief,

MINKOFF.

Thus it is clearly evident that the order to employ postage stamps as Postage Due stamps has been properly given. The office at Rustschuck was the only one which found itself obliged to have recourse to this means and the surcharged stamps were only employed in this locality. Mr. Radeff wrote them in good faith when he replied as he did, the more so that the question had either been ill-put to him or that he had not well understood it, since he speaks of Unpaid Letter stamps surcharged when it is a question of postage stamps.

Our correspondent adds that at that time Mr. Radeff could not respond otherwise, not having knowledge of the circular, but that if one should repeat the question to him to-day, he would certainly reply that postage stamps with the surcharge "T" have been officially issued.

We may add that these stamps being somewhat rare, counterfeits of them are already in circulation.

Historical Sketch of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and its Postage Stamps.

By JULES BOUVÉZ.

(Continued from page 41.)

The postage stamp of 1 silbergroschen (1 Prussian silbergroschen—Fr. 0.125), like that of 10 centimes,¹ gave rise during the entire period of its issue, to numerous printings which were made at various dates. The statement below gives on this point all the information that we have been able to get together :

STAMPS OF 1 SILBERGROSCHEN.			
DATES OF PRINTING	QUANTITIES ISSUED	COLOR OF STAMPS	KIND OF PAPER
September 10, 1852	120,000	Light orange	White paper
June 5, 1853	60,000	Red orange	Yellowish paper
December 5, 1854	120,000	Brick red	" "
June 12, 1855	56,000	Light brown red	" "
October 15, 1855	65,000	Dark brown red	Grayish "
November 5, 1856	75,000	Dark carmine	Yellowish "
December 15, 1856	90,000	Light carmine	Grayish "
December 20, 1857	85,000	Dark rose	" "
September 25, 1858	46,000	Pale rose	" "

We think we should add that in the last two printings about one third of the issue was printed on a vertically ribbed paper, as in the last printing of the 10 centime stamps.

On June 12th, 1855, about which time the stamps of 10 centimes dark black gray, on yellowish paper, of the 6th printing appeared, as well as those of 1 silbergroschen light brown red, also printed on yellowish paper, of the 4th printing, a new postal tariff was adopted for the dispatch of correspondence of the Grand Duchy. With regard to this we find in the Legislative and Administrative Memorial of the period the following information :

“ Art. 1.—Any letter the weight of which does not exceed ten grammes will be treated as a single letter for correspondence circulating only in the interior of the Grand Duchy.

Art. 2.—Letters which circulate only in the interior of the Grand Duchy are taxed uniformly, without regard to the distance between the points of dispatch and destination, in accordance with the following tariff :

For any letter which does not exceed ten grammes, ten centimes.

For any letter the weight of which exceeds ten grammes, without exceeding twenty, twenty centimes.

For any letter which weighs more than twenty grammes, without exceeding the weight of thirty grammes, thirty centimes.

And so on, adding 10 centimes for every 10 grammes additional.

Art. 3.—For registered letters, a fixed rate of ten centimes must be paid in addition to the progressive rate stated in the preceding article.

Art. 4. Samples of merchandise pay 10 centimes per thirty grammes.

Art. 8.—Prepayment of postage is obligatory for letters, samples of merchandise and commercial paper* originating in and destined for the interior of the Grand Duchy.

* “ Valeurs ” i.e. drafts, certificate of stock, &c.

Letters and other articles found in the boxes without stamps attached are treated and taxed as dead letters if not withdrawn within three months, after proof of ownership.

Art. 11.—The postage on newspapers, periodical works, books and advertisements, printed, engraved, lithographed, or in manuscript, originating in and destined for places in the Grand Duchy, is fixed at two centimes per sheet or fraction of a sheet, whatever the dimensions may be."

This law, which became obligatory from the 1st of February, 1855, annulled all the arrangements of the laws of December 29th, 1849, June 23rd, 1845, and December 26th, 1848, and, as will be seen, made prepayment obligatory.

In order to allow the public the greatest facility for procuring postage stamps, the Postal Administration, in concert with the Administrator General of Communal Affairs, who was then Mr. E. Thilges, ordered the communal officers residing in places where there was no office for the sale of postage stamps to provide themselves with a certain quantity of them, so as to be able to have them constantly within reach of the public and thus facilitate the carrying out of the new law.

In spite of this measure, the senders of postal articles became familiar only by degrees with the requirements of the law, which took a rather long time to penetrate into the habits of the population.

The stamps of 10 centimes and 12½ centimes (one silbergroschen), having been found insufficient for the prepayment of postage, a law of December 2nd, 1858, was made to complete that of November 30th, 1852. We reproduce it here in part :

"WE, William III, by the grace of God King of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange-Nassau, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, etc., after hearing our Council of State, with the consent of the States-General, have ordered and do order :

"Art. 1.—Independently of the stamps of 10 centimes and 12½ centimes, or one silbergroschen, created by the law of November 30th, 1852, the government may issue other stamps for the prepayment of heavy letters, of those going abroad and of all other objects the transportation of which is entrusted to the post office.

"Luxemburg, December 2nd, 1858.

"(Signed.) WILLIAM III."

Following this order, the Grand Ducal Government studied the manufacture of the material necessary for the production of new postage stamps, for it had observed that the first stamps, which were etched, had cost too high a price. After much hesitation, it was decided to adopt the galvanoplastic (or electric-plating) process and typographical printing, and various Luxemburg firms were applied to, in order to obtain an irreproachable product at a reasonable price. Disappointed in its hopes, on account of the high prices asked by the printers of the Grand Duchy, the Administration entrusted to Mr. Dressler, of Frankfort on the Maine, the preparation by the galvanoplastic process of the necessary plates, and ordered of the printer Naumann, also established at Frankfort on the Maine, the printing of the stamps.

On September 19th, 1859, the first supply of the new stamps was forwarded to the Postal Administration of the Grand Duchy, and ten days afterwards there appeared in the *Journal de Luxembourg* the following notice relative to this second issue :

"Notice—Postal Service—Postage Stamps.

"By virtue of the law of December 2, 1858, the Postal Administration will have on sale, beginning this day, for the prepayment of letters, postage stamps of 30 centimes, in addition to those of 10 centimes and one silbergroschen established by the law of November 30th, 1852.

"The postage stamps of 30 centimes are printed in lilac. They bear the coat of arms of the Grand Duchy; above, the words: "Grand Duché de Luxembourg" abbreviated; below, the value expressed in centimes.

"When the present stock of postage stamps of 10 centimes and 12½ (one silbergroschen) with the portrait of the Grand Duke-King is exhausted, new stamps of these two values will be provided, having the same form and the same design as that of 30 centimes and printed, those of 10 centimes in blue and those of 12½ centimes in rose.

"It is understood that the old stamps will retain their value and will be available for the prepayment of letters concurrently with the new ones.

"In addition, the Government is having prepared postage stamps of 25, 37½ (3 silbesgroschen) and 40 centimes; the public will be notified of their issue.

"The Director-General of Finances,
"ULVELING."



It is known that the coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is: Barrylly argent and azure of ten pieces, a lion rampant gules, crowned, armed and langued or, the tail twisted, forked and in saltire. The stamps of the second issue reproduce this coat of arms in an oval with quadrillé background, around the upper part of which is the inscription "G. D. de Luxembourg," and at the base the word "Centimes" and at each side of this word the value in figures. The upper corners of the oval and its lower part immediately above the figures at the sides are ornamented with arabesques, and the whole is framed with ornaments of the width of 1½ mm. The stamp is printed on white paper without watermark, the dimensions being 22 mm. x 18 mm., and is not perforated.

The first printing, placed on sale in the post offices of the Grand Duchy on September 29th, 1859, comprised the following values:

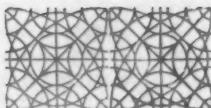
- 1) 2,000 sheets, or 400,000 stamps, of the 10 centimes blue
- 2) 500 sheets, or 100,000 " " 12½ " pale rose
- 3) 500 " " 100,000 " " 30 " pale red lilac

In this first printing is to be found a large number of stamps the impression of which leaves much to be desired. Thus, the arabesques at the corners of the oval and on each side of the coat of arms are generally blurred. Seen through a magnifying glass, the quadrillé background of the oval presents numerous defects, as do the inscriptions. For instance, in the inscription "G. D. DE LUXEMBOURG," the dot after the "D" is sometimes lacking; the letters "M" and "B" of "LUXEMBOURG" touch at the base and the "U" and "R" touch at the top; in a certain number of pieces on each sheet

the letter "E" of "LUXEMBOURG" is deformed and is joined by a little vertical stroke to the first of the two upper lines of the oval. These peculiarities are found especially in the 10 and 12½ centimes; they exist, however, in the 30 centimes, but in a much smaller proportion.

Another important remark with regard to the 10 centimes is that in this stamp the word "centimes" is badly printed, for it has "ceniimes." We should say, however, that there are on each sheet one or two stamps on which the fourth letter of the word "centimes" approaches nearer to a "t" than to an "i."

(*To be continued.*)



Bauche—Rapin—Champion and his Counterfeits.

From *The Monthly Circular.*

In February, 1901, "Henri Bauche" was charged at Bow Street with defrauding some London dealers by means of dangerous forgeries of Swiss Cantonal stamps. He was committed for trial and allowed bail in the sum of £200. As might have been expected, he did not reappear at the appointed time, and his bail was estreated.

A Swiss magistrate happened to see a report of the case in an English newspaper, and the idea struck him that "Bauche" was none other than Adrien Champion, a Geneva dealer, over whose head a warrant had been hanging for seven months past. The search for Champion was renewed. A letter was seized that showed that correspondence for "Oscar Rapin" was addressed to Modane, to be forwarded to St. Etienne, and then forwarded again to Pont-de-Beauvoisin. At the latter place "Oscar Rapin" had become "Jules Rapin," and "Jules Rapin" was Champion himself: charged with fraudulent bankruptcy, withholding £2,800 worth of goods from his creditors, making and selling forged postage stamps, and circulating worthless bills to the amount of £800. To this we may add that Champion was also the swindling firm of "Haüf & Cie," of Paris, denounced in March, 1900, by the Société Française de Timbrologie.

As far as we know, he is still awaiting his trial, but we are less interested in him than in the contents of his two portmanteaus, which have been examined by Messrs. Dourson and J. Jaquier, acting as expert-valuers. The latter gentleman gives in the *Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung* a long and interesting description, from which we take the following details:

"The stock consists of three albums, a hundred approval-books, and three or four small collecting-books for the rarities, about 10,000 stamps which are genuine and worth less than 10 francs a hundred, and a book of 'Old Swiss.' A delightful bookfull this last! Thirty double Geneva, 50 half ditto, 150 small eagles, 50 Vaud 4c, 50 Vaud 5c, as many Neuchâtel and Winterthur, not forgetting 40 Zurich 6r. But not a single Zurich 4r, nor one Basle 'dove.' Venturini* had not finished them, evidently!"

There is no doubt that these Cantonal are exceedingly dangerous. "One of the Geneva postmarks is so well made that one might take the stamp to be genuine, so perfectly is the obliteration imitated. This book of Cantonal was never shown to customers, for such an accumulation would have aroused suspicion. The specimens were mixed with other stamps in the approval books, especially the 'cross with frame' varieties, one of the oldest specialities of the firm.

"One of the collecting-books was not less attractive. The first thing that we noticed was 15 French 1849 *têtes-bêches* and a nice lot of the same issue loose and on letters, from the common 20c to the 1 franc, vermilion: the 20c were included as, being printed in sheets of 10, in two vertical rows of 5 stamps, they gave 5 *têtes-bêches*. It appears that the forged French

* An Italian, who is supposed to be the maker of these forgeries. Champion acted probably as the seller only.

Postage Due, 1, 2 and 5 francs, described in 1896 in the *Revue Philatélique Française*, are still being sold. The fact is that they are perfect imitations, even better than the forged 1849 stamps. And then they can be served up in so many ways. They can be printed in black or brown-red, the 1 franc in rose; they can be perforated for France; the three values in brown and the 1 franc rose, imperforate, make four Colonial varieties. These again can be surcharged for Diego-Suarez, Martinique, Obock, etc.—fourteen more varieties. Total from three dies, 25 different forgeries, of which we found over 200 specimens.

"I think that the Postage Dues came from the same source as the 1849, as well as the following Postage Dues:—10c, black, 1859; 40c, blue, and 60c, ochre, 1878; which are also well done.

"Now for the other forgeries.

Alsace.—Reprints with forged postmarks.

Argentine.—Large surcharge, 1, 2 and 8 upright, sideways, and inverted. $\frac{1}{2}$ c (1884) inverted. These surcharges are perfect: even a slight flaw in the tail of the '2' of ' $\frac{1}{2}$ ' is reproduced exactly. [M. Jaquier, who is an authority on Argentine, notes that no genuine 'sideways' errors exist.] The OFFICIAL are also an old speciality of Jules Rapin; the market is flooded with them.

Azores.—Large surcharge, not dangerous on the whole.

Baden.—18 kreuzer, paper rather yellowish.

Belgium.—5 francs, pale brown. Would deceive only those willing to be deceived.

Benin.—With and without accent; a few seem to be genuine. Humph!

Bermuda.—Good imitations of the 1874 surcharges.

Bolivia, 1867.—These forgeries are not up to the level of the others.

Brazil.—'Bulleyes' well imitated; 'italic figures' also well done; 'Roman figures' with forged perfs.

Bremen.—Nearly all values, well imitated.

British Bechuanaland.—Various forged overprints.

British East Africa.—A hodgepodge of genuine stamps with either forged surcharges or forged postmarks, or both together. Also various doubtful.

British Guiana.—Forgeries of the rarities, few and very poorly done.

Bulgaria.—'5 on 30' and '3 on 10' in great number.

Cape.—Splendid line engraved forgeries of the triangulares, but a poorly executed 'Four Pence' surcharge.

Ceylon.—A few which appear to be the English forgeries of 1895.

Chili.—First issue cleaned.

Congo.—Forged 'Colis Postaux' surcharge.

Corrientes.—Reprints with forged postmarks.

Costa Rica.—'U. P. U.' of 1891.

Cuba.—'Y $\frac{1}{4}$ ' and '66'.

Cyprus.—'30 Paras' and 'Halfpenny'.

Eastern Roumelia.—'R. O.' surcharge and 'Lion' (South Bulgaria.) M. Doursoun, a great connoisseur of Oriental stamps, found one genuine specimen out of 14.

Egypt.—5 piastres, first issue; 5pi of the second and third issues. Postage Due, 5pi gray. All good imitations.

France.—Here we have to add 1871, 15c, brown on straw, small figures, with forged impression of the same stamp on the back. A fake, styled by J. Rapin, 'unique error, double impression,' and sold by him at £2.

French Colonies.—75c, 'gooseberry,' faked, and a good imitation of the 2c, red-brown.

Great Britain.—A quantity of 'penny blacks' so perfectly cleaned that scarcely any trace of the operation could be discovered. In fact, we ourselves did not detect it. Small profits are not to be despised, so the ½ penny, vermilion, was surcharged I. R. OFFICIAL, to sell at a penny each.

Griqualand.—Probably all bad,—Cape stamps are so common.

Guadeloupe.—Nice imitations of the Postage Due, but lithographed, instead of typographed like the originals.

India.—Plenty of 2, 3 and 5 rupees spoilt by the addition of forged Chamba, Gwalior, Jhind, and Nabha overprints.

Ionian Islands.—Forged or with forged postmarks.

Japan.—Plenty of clever forgeries, with and without the 'fac-simile' characters, which nobody can ever distinguish. What a sale our yellow friends must have for these!

Johore, Bangkok, etc.—We pass these by, as we know nothing of them.

Liberia.—Ordinary forgeries.

Lubeck and Oldenburg.—Forged, but only a few.

Madagascar.—About 100, with the oval surcharge of 1896.

Mexico.—Saltillo, and many stamps or reprints of 1856-1867 issues, with or without names of towns or obliterations. These are so complicated that it is often impossible to pronounce an opinion.

Moldavia.—81 paras.

Naples.—'Cross' and a few others. I was surprised to find how few Italian States forgeries the stock included,—only about 30 or 40 Sicily. It shows how difficult line-engraved stamps are to imitate, even with Venturini's talents.

Nevis.—Poor forgeries, in sheets, of the 1861 stamps.

New Brunswick.—1852, the set of three.

New South Wales.—A lot of 'Registered' and a few Sydney views.

New Zealand.—Fiscals cleaned, and then postmarked by favor.

Nova Scotia.—1860 issue with forged postmarks.

Orange Free State.—Surcharge '4' on 6 pence.

Paraguay.—OFFICIAL surcharge.

Persia.—Type of 1885, reprints with forged postmarks.

Peru.—'Medio peso' yellow and GOBIERNO surcharges in great number.

Philippines.—Forged 1859 and 1861 in profusion, and a few others.

Roman States.—1 scudo, in entire sheets.

Roumania.—50 bani, without beard, poor.

Russian Levant.—'7' and '8' surcharges in great number. Much surprised to find only a few forgeries of the 1866 'Steamer' type.

St. Lucia.—Fiscals cleaned and postmarked.

Sardinia.—3 lire, inverted head, postmarked.

Servia.—Poor imitations of the 1866 issue.

Siam.—A hundred '1 Tical' surcharge, extremely well done.

Spain.—Very numerous and very dangerous forgeries of all values, 1851-53, and 1, 2 and 6 reales, 1854. Also 12c, inverted surcharge, perf. and imperf.

Sweden.—An excellent counterfeit of the TRETIO error.

Tasmania.—Bauche seems to have had a great fancy for this country. The 1855 and 1871 stamps are often penmarked; these marks have been skilfully cleaned off. The same stamps also exist reprinted on card. A 4 pence, blue, 1870, in this state, has had the card thinned, a perforation added,

and a false watermark. '4' impressed. There were about a hundred of these.

Thurn and Taxis.—Forged postmarks on the high values.

Trinidad.—The unissued stamps of 1859 postmarked.

Tuscany.—60 crazie and 3 lire.

United States.—400 or 500 proofs on card thinned and perforated.

Also all the P. O. Department set forged.

Uruguay.—A large number of genuine unused stamps with forged OFFICIAL overprint to increase their value.

To crown all there was a book almost entirely filled with forged 18 kreuzer Wurtemberg of all issues, and all exceedingly well done.

"The forgeries were skilfully mixed up with genuine stamps of low value. The value of the latter is placed at about £240. The forgeries or faked stamps formed at least 60 per cent. of the total number, and their value might easily amount to between £2,000 and £3,000.

"It is altogether a mistake to imagine that these forgeries were unsaleable. In this stock we have noted plenty of sales, including a quantity of forgeries. And those quoted at 2 to 5 francs a piece, with 50 or 60 per cent. discount, had gone off extremely well. It only needed a little skill to distinguish the buyer who was a connoisseur from the one who was not, and the latter sort forms an immense majority. And it must not be forgotten that the collector who haggles over prices rarely knows much about stamps, and will always take at a heavy discount a well imitated specimen of a stamp which he will not buy at full price from an honest dealer. Master Rapin knew all this very well, and if he could travel all over Europe for a couple of years, slip away from the police at his heels, and leave a bail of £200 in England, it is quite clear that selling forgeries, with a few genuine stamps thrown in, the whole at 50 to 70 per cent. discount, is a profitable business.

"My hope is that this article will be a serious warning to collectors, for the stamps of which I have given a list were not confined to the two portmanteaus. They have been put into general circulation, and I may even say that the market is flooded with them."

Since writing the preceding account we have received a report of Champion's trial, which was closed on February 25th. It took place before the *tribunal correctionnel* of Geneva, and Champion's brother, Edmond, also appeared as defendant.

The prisoner was brought in between two gendarmes. "He was no longer the handsome Adrien of times past. Wearing a long frock-coat that made him look tall, his face was careworn and his voice broken, but his intellect was clear, and skilfully aided by his advocate, he defended himself inch by inch with the greatest adroitness." He did not deny having sold counterfeit stamps, but said that it was no more illegal than vending imitation jewelery. "An imitation stamp," he explained, is a work of art. A collector cannot always afford an original specimen, and is content with a fac-simile instead. I have always sold my fac-similes at a lower price than that of the genuine article." Questioned as to his arrest in England, he replied quietly that, not being charged with that matter, he did not consider himself required to give an explanation. As for a trifling "error" of £2,400 in the bankruptcy accounts and a large quantity of stamps concealed from his creditors, one was easily explained away, and the other was "his private collection." And

what of the worthless bills alleged to have been drawn on account of stamps merely sent on approval and not sold? There was a note on the invoices saying that the stamps "would be considered sold" if not returned within a certain time. The contents of the two portmanteaus? They were not his, but the property of his mistress, a demoiselle Haüf, whose name he sometimes assumed. After eloquent speeches for the defence, Edmond Champion was acquitted by the jury, who found Adrien guilty of "simple bankruptcy," innocent on the charge of fraudulent appropriation, and guilty "with extenuating circumstances" as to the fraudulent bills. He was condemned to imprisonment for nine months and ten days, from the date of his arrest, a sentence which meant his immediate release.

France Unpaid 10c Lithograph.

Translated by the *Philatelic Record*.

From *La Cote Réelle*.

The comparative rarity of the 10c Unpaid Letter stamp, lithographed arises from the fact that it was a provisional. Time being too short to have the stamp engraved, recourse was had to lithography to provide the necessary sheets for the Timbre—or, as it was officially designated, Chiffre-Taxe.

Issued on January 1st, 1859, it was replaced in the middle of March the same year by a typograph, and although the two stamps are identical as far as design is concerned, it is easy enough to distinguish them after a little careful study.

In the first place, to the naked eye, the lithograph is softer, and the grayish black of the ink seems regularly distributed; whilst the typograph, especially when upon yellowish and somewhat ribbed paper, although blacker, shows places where the ink has only caught the surface of the paper.

Looking a little more closely, it will be noticed that in the lithograph the letters of the word "CENTIMES" as well as those of the word "percevoir" are smaller, the grave accent of the "à" under the word "centimes" is almost horizontal, and looks more like a small line than an accent, whilst in the other stamp it is well formed, broad at the top and thinner below. The curl of this "à" is more rounded to the left than in the other type, and the upstroke of the "i" is finer and shorter, as are also the lines forming the foot. Lastly, the four white lines on the inside of the frame, under the words "postes," "chiffre," and above the word "Taxe," end in hooks which are much less curved inwards than in the typograph. The same applies to the hooks of the angle ornaments.

If the stamp is not on entire it will be noticed that the typograph impression appears behind in relief. If it is obliterated with dated postmark, it is certain to be lithographed, if the date is not later than March 15th, 1859, unless it is the work of forgers, who have frequently been tempted by this stamp.

A Letter from Djibouti.

From *l'Echo de la Timbrologie*.

M. Hellstern, who has been called by his personal affairs to the eastern coast of Africa, has not forgotten the readers of *l'Echo* and recounts for their edification the details of a philatelic visit to Djibouti.

"As I promised you in my previous letter," writes our faithful correspondent, "I am going to give you an account of my excursion to Djibouti. Our steamboat arrived there on the 21st February, at two o'clock in the morning. The early morning hour did not prevent me from disembarking immediately, for I had learned, before leaving France, that a surcharged issue was about to appear and I promised myself to make a good harvest for my friends and for myself. I received my first disillusion as soon as I had landed. I learned indeed that, no matter at what hour the steamboat arrived and disembarked the courier, the post office did not open its doors until seven o'clock in the morning. Necessity made me promenade by the light of the moon in the beautiful city of Djibouti, of which the neglected street lamps wait, probably as a measure of economy, for someone to light them."

"The first hotel that opened its doors received my visit and that of a friend from shipboard, who had accompanied me. After we had refreshed ourselves we took our way towards the post office, which is located a kilometer from the city, a distance which appeared to us enormous under the tropical sun. We were received by the manager, a very brisk young man, who gave us a very amiable reception. He gave me, with very good grace, all the information that I solicited, but, when I asked him to sell me some samples of the provisional issues, the existence of which I had learned in the city, he replied to me very politely, that *it was forbidden to sell them to the public*, and that he regretted not to be able to gratify me. He added that if I had letters to frank, he asked nothing better than to frank them with the provisional stamps if the rate required it. He also told me that he sold sets ready prepared for the public and composed as follows:

0.15, 0.20, 0.25c and 1fr. of Obock.

0.30, 0.50c and 2frs. of Djibouti.

5 on 75c, 10 on 1fr and 40 on 2frs. of Djibouti.

a total of Frs. 4.95, but he could only deliver one set to each person, new or used. I took one and made the friend who accompanied me take another. As for the 75c on 5frs, it was impossible to obtain it. I insisted strongly, but could only obtain this reply: 'This value is completely exhausted, but if you desire to have of it you will find some at M. X—— at Djibouti, who has of them but who sells them dearly' (sic). There was nothing to do but to leave this singular post office. Before that I desired to know the number printed of the provisional stamps, and the following is what I learned from the mouth of the manager:

Of the 5c on 75c were issued	18,000
" 10c " 1fr " "	8,000
" 40c " 2fr " "	6,000
" 75c " 5fr " "	1,600

As you will suppose, I went at once to M. X——. That was soon done. M. X—— would not sell a "single one of the stamps without knowing the price in Paris !!!

"To sum up, I brought away from my visit to Djibouti only a profound discouragement at seeing to what exploitation collectors are delivered. Tell your readers, then, to turn against and disinterest themselves of all these dubious speculations. A very evident proof that these stamps were not necessary is that they made, at the same time, the 75c on 5frs and the .05 on 75c; furthermore, I am convinced that there remained in the post office all values. It was for this reason that I did not follow the advice of the manager, who told me to send letters to friends and acquaintances. I am sure that he would have franked them with ordinary stamps, not surcharged! It was not because of the trouble."

Spurious Postal Card,

From the *New York Times.*

The New York Post Office employees have just been advised by the Post Office inspector in charge of the executive division that he has learned of the circulation of a counterfeit postal card. Its description is given as follows:

"The card appears to be counterfeit. Top of name line runs together, genuine is spaced. Lines in Jefferson's face are coarse and broken, wreath not uniform. Word "Jefferson" is light face, genuine is bold-face type. It is a coated paper not used for cards. The whole appears to be a copy from an old worn plate."

All employees of the office and its sub-stations are instructed to watch carefully for the cards, and upon the discovery of any of them immediately to report the fact.





AMOY.—The *Montreal Philatelist* announces the preparation of a series of stamps to be used in this city, similar to those in use in Canton and Hoi-Hao.

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AUSTRIA.—We give below the types of surcharges on Unpaid letter stamps for Offices in the Levant, as chronicled in our January number:

10
PARA

1
PIASTER

* * * * *

BRAZIL.—*L'Essor Philatélique* announces that a new official set is in preparation. The values will be 20, 50, 100, 200, 300, 500, 700, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 reis. The design will be the arms of the Republic.

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COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—We illustrate the two stamps chronicled in our last numbers.



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FERNANDO Po.—*Madrid Filatélico* announces the preparation of a new series of stamps for this colony. We understand the date will be changed, but otherwise the design will remain as at present. The values, colors and number of stamps to be printed are as follows:

5c green	10,000
10c blue	10,000
25c carmine	30,000
50c black brown	30,000
75c lilac	25,000
1p rose	20,000
2p bronze green	5,000
5p vermilion	3,000

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GERMAN NEW GUINEA.—We have been shown by Mr. J. C. Morgenthau the 25c of the 1897 issue with the surcharge inverted.

LABUAN.—The *London Philatelist* reports the discovery, in a large collection, of a variety of the provisional issue of 1880, 8c on 12c, which has both figures "8" upright and not the lower one sideways.

We illustrate the two stamps chronicled in our January number.



GERMANY.—We have recently been shown a number of varieties of the stamps of this country and its colonies, which we chronicle with due reserve, as we are inclined to think they may be essays rather than regular issues or accidental varieties. Mr. William Thorne has shown us the 1, 2, 3 and 5mks of the 1900 issue, perforated $1\frac{1}{2}$; also the 5pf printed in ultramarine, the color of the 20pf; and Mr. J. C. Morgenthau has shown us the current Cameroons 30pf printed in lake and black, the color of the 40pf. This stamp, however, has at each end of the word "KAMERUN" a period, instead of the fleur-de-lis, which appears on the issued stamps.



MARIANNA ISLANDS.—Mr. J. C. Morgenthau has shown us a copy of the 25pf orange, Arms type, with the surcharge inverted.



MAURITIUS.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* reports that there are two varieties of the provisional stamp of 1889, 6c on 18c green and ultramarine. In one variety the space between the figure and the word "CENTS" measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm and in the other only 3mm.

We illustrate the surcharge mentioned in our February number.

12
CENTS



NORTH BORNEO.—In the JOURNAL for January we reported the appearance of the 25 and 50c stamps overprinted "BRITISH PROTECTORATE", in black. We have now received the stamps and find the surcharge on the 50c is in red.

We give illustrations of the 10 and 16c stamps chronicled by us in our January number.



PERU.—The 22c stamp, chronicled in our February number is illustrated below.



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REUNION.—In our last number we chronicled inverted surcharges of the four recent provisionals. Mr. Thorne has now shown us a number of other minor varieties:

In each sheet of stamps there is one stamp in which the word 'REUNION' has no accent on the 'e'. The 5c on 50c is found with the surcharge misplaced, so that the stamps of the top row have only "5c", while those of the other rows have a bar at the top and "5c," at the bottom. One stamp in each setting has a thin figure "5." This same figure is also found in the 15c surcharged on 1fr., in connection with a small figure "1", and we presume that it also occurs in the 15c on 75c. Another variety of the 15c on 1fr has no bar; presumably this is also found on the 75c.

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SALVADOR.—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* announces that a new issue is in preparation in London.

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SOMALI COAST.—Mr. William Thorne has shown us some of the late surcharges. We find among them a number of minor varieties. Some of the surcharges are punctuated with a period, others with a comma. They also show various broken figures.

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SPANISH GUIANA.—Some of the Spanish possessions on the western coast of Africa, which have hitherto used the stamps of Fernando Po, are to have separate issues. The *Madrid Filatélico* announces a forthcoming issue for Spanish Guiana, with appropriate inscriptions and the date 1902. The values and colors are the same as those announced elsewhere for Fernando Po. We give them as follows, as well as the quantities to be printed:

5c green	20,000
10c blue	20,000
25c carmine	20,000
50c black brown	20,000
75c lilac	10,000
1p rose	10,000
2p bronze green	2,500
5p vermilion	1,500



UNITED STATES.—We recently purchased two provisional envelopes issued by the postmaster of Baltimore in 1845, one of which is a variety hitherto unknown. The envelope is of buff laid paper, size 145x84mm., and has in the upper right corner the signature of the postmaster, the word "PAID" and large figure "5" in oval (type E2 in our catalogue), stamped in red, with an additional "PAID" and "5" stamped in blue.

Envelope.

Provisional issue.

Buff paper.

roc red and blue

BELGIUM.—In January we announced the forthcoming appearance of new postal packet stamps. Four of them are now at hand.

Postal Packet stamps.

Perforated.

30c orange and black

40c green and black

70c blue and black

90c red and black

BENADIR.—We have been shown by Mr. H. L. Calman a set of stamps for this Italian colony. The stamps measure 22x28 mm. and are well executed. The lower values have a lion's head for the center of the design and the two higher values an elephant's head. Benadir is situated on the east coast of Africa near French Somaliland.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

Watermarked Crown.

1 anna claret

2 " brown orange

2½ " blue

5 " yellow orange

10 " lilac

1 besa brown

2 " blue green

BULGARIA.—The *Monthly Circular* adds to the list of provisional unpaid letter stamps the 15 stotinki.

Unpaid letter stamp.

Provisional issue.

Black surcharge.

Perforated.

15s lilac rose and gray black

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* has seen a new three-penny stamp in the design of the one-penny of 1894, standing figure of Hope.

Adhesive stamp.

Perforated.

Watermarked Anchor.

3p red violet

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—We found among a lot of used stamps a few copies of the 20c of the 1900 issue printed in carmine, instead of lilac.

Adhesive stamp.

Perforated.

20c carmine

DUTCH INDIES.—*Ewens Weekly Stamp News* reports a 25c envelope with stamp of the type of the current adhesives.

Envelope.

Black surcharge.
25c on 25c carmine and blue

GERMANY.—Last month we chronicled the adhesive stamps from 2pf to 5mks, inclusive, with the inscription changed to "DEUTSCHES REICH." We have been shown by Mr. C. Witt a number of new postal cards and find chronicled in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* a variety of other postal stationery.

Pneumatic envelope.

Size 125x82mm.
30pf dark blue on rose
Letter sheet.

10pf carmine on pale blue. Size 140x90mm.

Postal cards.

2pf gray blue on pale blue. Size 140x92mm.
2x2pf gray blue on pale blue. Size 140x90mm.
5pf green on cream. Size 140x92 mm.
5pf green on buff. Size 140x90 mm.
5x5pf green on buff. Size 140x92 mm., long address line
10pf carmine on buff. Size 140x 92mm., short address line
10x10pf carmine on yellowish. Size 140x90mm.

Pneumatic postal card.

25pf ochre on pale rose. Size 127x89mm.
25x25pf ochre on pale rose. Size 126x88mm.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Several new values of the King's Head series have appeared, namely, the 1½, 2, 3, 4p and 1sh, and the *London Philatelist*

illustrates the 5, 10sh and £1 stamps, with the announcement that the first two will be issued about the middle of April but the last will probably not appear before July. *Ewens Weekly Stamp News* reports the 9 pence.

The new 2½p stamp has also been surcharged "40 paras" for use in the Levant and the 6p has been surcharged "GOVT. PARCELS".

Adhesive stamps.



Perforated.

Watermarked Crown.
1½p violet and green
2p green and carmine
3p violet on yellow
4p brown and green
9p blue and lilac
1sh carmine and green
Watermarked Anchor.
5sh carmine
10sh blue
Watermarked Three Crowns.
£5 green

Official stamp.
Surcharged "GOVT. PARCEL", in black.
6p dull violet
Offices in the Levant.
Black surcharge.
4opa on 2½p ultramarine

GREECE.—Mr. William Thorne has kindly shown us the unpaid letter

stamps of which we recently announced the respective issue. We shall illustrate the type in our next number.

Unpaid letter stamps.

Perforated.

- 1 1 chocolate
- 2 1 gray
- 3 1 orange
- 5 1 yellow green
- 10 1 scarlet
- 20 1 lilac
- 25 1 ultramarine
- 30 1 deep violet
- 40 1 dark brown
- 50 1 red brown
- 1dr black
- 2dr bronze
- 3dr silver
- 5dr gold

Bussahir.—We quote from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* and chronicle such varieties as are included in our catalogue:

"Supplies of stamps just received by the Colonial Stamp Market from this Indian Native State contain a number of varieties which do not appear to have been chronicled and are certainly not catalogued by Stanley Gibbons. As our readers are aware, Bussahir has had two sets of stamps, the first issued about 1895 or 1896 (the existence of these stamps was practically unknown in Europe until 1899), and a second set in 1899. The latter differs from the former in having the word 'Postage' added to the design and 'Stamp' removed. Before issue, the stamps are overprinted with a rubber hand-stamp with the monogram 'rs,' 'RNS' or 'ps,' in greenish-blue or bluish-green, bright green, rose, lake or mauve, and they are either imperforate or pin-perforated. They also occur on wove paper or on watermark-ed or unwatermarked laid paper." We chronicle such varieties as are not already included in our catalogue.

Adhesive stamps.

Type of 1896 issue.

Imperforate.

Surcharged "RNS".

- 8a brown, green surcharge
- Surcharged "PS".
- 11 blue, violet surcharge
- 1891 issue.
- Imperforate.
- Surcharged "RNS".
- 3/4 a vermilion, green surcharge
- 1a " violet "
- 1a " blue green surcharge
- 2a orange, violet "
- 4a gray, blue green "
- 4a claret, violet "
- Surcharge "PS".
- 5/8a blue, violet surcharge
- 2a yellow " "
- 4a claret " "
- Laid paper, watermarked.
- Surcharged "PS".
- 3/4 a pale red brown, violet surcharge

Patiala.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* states that the last printing of the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna stamp is on the pale green stamp. This $\frac{1}{2}$ anna was ordered in December, as well as stamps of $\frac{1}{4}$, 1, 2 and 4 annas. It is expected that all will appear in the new colors of the Indian stamps.

Adhesive stamp.

Black surcharge.

5/8a light green

LIBERIA.—In the JOURNAL for February we mentioned that the 1c Official stamp had been reported with the surcharge "ORDINARY", used to pay regular postage. The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* now adds two other Official stamps, similarly surcharged,—the 2c of the 1894 issue (Star) and the same value of the 1900 issue (Hippopotamus).

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.

Black surcharge.

2c blue

2c orange red and black

MAURITIUS.—*L'Essor Philatélique* announces the current 18c envelope with the overprint "15 CENTS".

Envelope.

Black surcharge.

15c on 18c blue

NEW CALEDONIA.—Mr. H. L. Calman has shown us two new provisionals for this country. The stamps are made by surcharging the 30c and 40c of the current issue with the letters "N. C. E." and large figures "5" or "15".

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.

Black surcharge.

5c on 30c brown

15c on 40c red on straw

OBOOK.—*Le Timbrophile Belge* announces a provisional issue, made by surcharging the 75 centimes with new value, "5 CENTIMES", in black.

Mr. Witt has shown us the 10, 20 and 25 centimes cut in half vertically and used on portions of original envelopes. We do not know whether these were used to represent half of their original value, or whether, as has been suggested in some of our European contemporaries, they were used to represent the value of the numerals which appear on the fragments and that the other parts of the stamps were retained at the post office as vouchers. The three stamps before us show the figures 1, 2 and 5. Pending further information, we chronicle them as they are:

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.

Black surcharge.

5c on 75c lavender and orange

Half of 10c black and green

" " 20c brown orange and maroon

" " 25c black and blue

PARAGUAY.—Two more values of the lithographed series have appeared.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforate.

1c gray green

10c red

PERSIA.—In addition to the surcharged stamps chronicled in the JOURNAL for March, we have seen several other values and find still others announced in European journals. It would appear that the whole series issued in 1899 had been surcharged as well as several recent provisionals. For the sake of completeness, we will give the entire list so far as we know it. We illustrate herewith the provisional surcharge.



We also find reports of two typeset provisionals, composed of a frame and inscription, in three lines, "2 SHAHI 2 (or 12 SHAHI 12)—POSTES PERSANNES" and Persian characters. The stamps have a burelé ground-work and a control mark in red, with a lion in the center.

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.

Black surcharge.

1s gray on green

2s brown on green

3s violet on green

4s red on green

5s yellow on green

8s orange on green

10s pale blue on green

12s lake on green

16s green on green

1k red

2k deep green

3k brown lilac

4k orange red

5k gray brown
10k deep blue
50k brown

With additional surcharge, Lion and Persian characters in rectangle.

3s violet on green

With additional surcharge of new value.

12s on 1k red
5k on 50k brown

Provisional issue.

Typeset surcharge.

2s red brown and buff
12s blue and buff

Envelopes.

Black surcharge.

10s light blue

12s rose

SOMALI COAST.—We learn from our European contemporaries that the 5c stamp of the current type has appeared in new colors.

Adhesive stamp.

Imperforate.

5c green and yellow green

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 9p stamp has appeared on the paper watermarked Crown and S. A., letters wide apart.

Adhesive stamp.

Perforated 11½.

Watermarked Crown and S. A.

9p magenta

TRANSVAAL.—Several of our European contemporaries announce and illustrate the stamps for this country, but so far as we can learn only "Specimen" sets have as yet appeared. The design consists of the

head of King Edward VII surmounted by a crown, with the word "TRANSVAAL" in a curved label below it; at right and left, respectively, are "POSTAGE" and "REVENUE", and in an upright oval in each corner the value.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 14.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

½p green and black

1p carmine and black

2p lilac and black

2½p ultramarine and black

6p orange and black

1sh olive green and black

2sh dark brown and black

28s 6p black and violet

5sh dark brown and black on yellow
low

10sh olive and black on yellow

UGANDA.—We have seen two values of the 1896 issue of British East Africa surcharged across the top, in thin capital letters, "UGANDA". *Ewens Weekly Stamp News* also reports various articles of stationery, similarly produced.

Adhesive stamp.

Provisional issue.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

½a yellow green

Red surcharge.

2½a dark blue

Registration envelopes.

Black surcharge.

2a red brown, sizes F and H₂

Postal cards.

Black surcharge.

½x½a green

1a carmine

Changes in Catalogue Prices.

A DASH (—) INDICATES THAT A PRICE HAS BEEN DROPPED.

ANGOLA.

37	1894	25r on 2½r	3.00	2.00
		BELGIUM.		
1	1849	10		25

ROUMANIA.

43	1871	5b	1.00
52	1872	25b	1.00
63	1876-78	10b	
115	1891	10b	60

COSTA RICA.

35	1892	1c	2
36	"	2c	3
37	"	5c	3
38	"	10c	5
39	"	20c	5
40	"	50c	8
41	"	1p	10
42	"	2p	20
43	"	5p	50
44	"	10p	1.00

EGYPT (UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.)

106	1886	10pa	25
107	"	20pa	20
108	"	1pia	25
109	"	2pia	25

GREECE.

11	1863-71	1l	40
147	1900	50 on 25 on 40	5.00

NETHERLANDS.

1	1852	5c	12
1c	"	(new number) 5c dark blue	12

RUSSIA.

2	1858	10k	75
13	1865	3k	1.00
14	"	5k	1.50
15	"	10k	
21	1868-79	3k	50

RUSSIAN LEVANT.

1	1864	6k	15.00
12	"	6k	18.00
10	1868	5k	1.25
18	1879	7k on 10k	1.75
19	"	7k on 10k	2.00

SURINAM.

29	1893	25c	12
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VICTORIA

(WITHOUT WORD POSTAGE)

184	1901	½p	5
185	"	1p	—
186	"	2p	15
187	"	3p	25
188	"	4p	30
189	"	6p	40

The Collectors Club.

The seventy-ninth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the club house on Monday evening, April 14, 1902. Present : Messrs. Andreini, Calman, Luff and Perrin.

Meeting called to order by the President at 8.20 p. m. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A communication was read from Mr. J. B. Leavy, offering two medals, one of silver and one of bronze, to be awarded for the two best collections of the stamps of Hayti, said exhibit to be held under the auspices of the club.

Moved, seconded and carried that Mr. Leavy's offer be accepted, said exhibition to be held during the month of May.

Mr. A. Holland sent a communication offering one silver medal and one bronze medal to be awarded in competitive exhibition under the auspices of the club for the best and second best collection of the stamps of the Balkan States.

Mr. Holland's offer was accepted and this exhibition will be held during the month of May.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. R. S. Nelson for an interesting collection of Haytian postal cards, U. S. hand stamped envelopes and documents.

The Treasurer's report showing a cash balance in bank of \$433.54 exclusive of \$1,000 bond was accepted as read.

The House Committee's report was read and received.

The Committee appointed as judges to award the medals donated by the American Collectors Co. for the best general collections exhibited at the club, reported that the gold medal was awarded to Mr. H. H. Scholle and the silver one to Mr. Henry Morgenthau.

Moved by Mr. Calman, seconded by Mr. Luff and carried unanimously that the President be authorized to appoint a committee of twenty-one to arrange for an exhibition of stamps to be held in New York City, at about the time of the visit of the Prince of Wales, and that \$100 be appropriated for preliminary expenses ; also that the committee shall be authorized in its discretion to increase the number of its members and to appoint such sub-committees as it may deem proper.

The following committee was appointed :

J. M. Andreini, J. W. Scott, H. L. Calman, Albert Perrin, John N. Luff, P. F. Bruner, Wm. Throne, G. E. Jones, J. C. Morgenthau, Chas. Gregory, C. F. Bishop, E. B. Power, Wm. A. Smith, Jr., F. H. Tows, Alex. Holland, Jos. B. Leavy, Jos. S. Rich, H. E. Deats, H. J. Duveen, I. A. Mekeel, Wm. H. Sussdorff.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the Scott S. & C. Co. for bound volume of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY for 1901. Mr. Henry A.

Ramsden presented through Mr. Andreini a collection of very interesting Chinese books on coin, for which a vote of thanks was tendered.

The names of two applicants for membership having been posted the required length of time, they were balloted upon and Messrs. Henry A. Ramsden and Hamlin Russell were declared to have been unanimously elected as subscribing members.

Adjourned at 9.30 P. M.

ALBERT PERRIN, *Secretary.*







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APRIL BARGAINS.

Argentine, 1902, Officials, 1c to 50c, set 6	.85
Austria, 1902, 35h	.12
Austria, Levant, Unpaid, 1902, 10pa	.03
" " " " 20pa	.05
" " " " 1pi	.08
" " " " 2pi	.18
" " " " 5pi	.40
Belgium, 1902, Packet Post, 30c	.12
" " " " 40c	.15
Bosnia, 1902, 35h	.12
Bulgaria, 1902, Unpaid, 50s	.18
Cayman Islands, 1902, 2½p	.09
" " " " 6p	.20
" " " " 1sh	.40
Colombian Republic, 1902, Provisional, 10c	.06
Antioquia, 1890, 1p	1.00
" 1899, 4c	.04
" " 5c	.05
" " 10c	.10
" " 20c	.20
" " 50c	.50
Dominican Republic, 1902, Officials 2c to 20c, set 4	.70
Great Britain, 1902, 1½p	.06
" " " 2p	.08
" " " 3p	.12
" " " 4p	.15
" " " 1sh	.40
Greece, Unpaid, 1902, 1l	.02
" " " 2l	.02
" " " 3l	.02
" " " 5l	.02
" " " 10l	.03
" " " 20l	.05
" " " 25l	.06
" " " 30l	.07
" " " 40l	.09
" " " 50l	.12
Germany, 1902, 2pf	.02
" " 3pf	.02
" " 5pf	.03
" " 10pf	.05
" " 20pf	.09
" " 25pf	.10
" " 30pf	.12
" " 40pf	.15
" " 50pf	.20
" " 80pf	.30
" " 1m	.40
" " 2m	.75
" " 3m	1.10
" " 5m	1.65
Labuan, 1901, 10c (Bear)	.12
" " 16c (Train)	.20
North Borneo, 1901, 10c (Bear)	.12
" " 16c (Train)	.20
" 1902, 25c Br. Protectorate	.25
" " 50c "	.50
Orange River Colony, 1902, 4p on 6p	.18
Paraguay, 1902, ac lithographed	.02
" " 10c	.05
Peru, 1902, 22c	.22

10 per cent. discount on single stamps.